CABLE

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MARVEL

156

CABLE

PAST FEARS
CHAPTER 2

PULLED FROM HIS OWN ERA AND RAISED IN A FAR-FLUNG FUTURE, NATHAN SUMMERS HAS TRAVERSED TIME IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HUMAN AND MUTANT ALIKE. HE IS THE LINK BETWEEN THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. HE IS KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, BUT TO MOST HE IS SIMPLY THE MAN CALLED…

CABLE

AFTER REUNITING WITH HIS ESTRANGED DAUGHTER HOPE, CABLE SET OUT TO FIGHT A TECHNO-ORGANIC MONSTER THAT'S BEEN TORMENTING HIM FOR YEARS. DURING THE CONFLICT, THE MONSTER DUG INTO CABLE'S MIND, FORCING HIM TO CONFRONT THEIR LONG AND SORDID HISTORY. AS A RESULT OF THE FIGHT, CABLE'S BODY MAY HAVE BEEN IRREPARABLY DAMAGED. STEP BACKWARD IN HISTORY TO TRULY UNDERSTAND THE MUTANT OUT OF TIME'S FATE… REVISIT CABLE'S PAST TO UNDERSTAND HIS FEAR!

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THE NEAR FUTURE.*

*THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER *X-FORCE (2009) #16* --DS!

BACK IN THE WASTELANDS AGAIN WITH NO DESTINATION BUT FORWARD.

DESPAIR IS THE ONLY THING INTACT IN THIS FUTURE. BUT IT'S SAFER THAN THE ONE WE JUST LEFT BEHIND. A HORRID WORLD RULED BY MY INSANE CLONE, STRYFE.

HOPE WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAD TO COME BACK HERE AND LEAVE X-FORCE.

THEY'RE THE CLOSEST THING SHE'S EVER HAD TO FRIENDS.

SHE'S TOO INNOCENT TO BE AFRAID, SO I CARRY THE FEAR FOR HER.

HHRUK

HRUK

USING TELEKINESIS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS DRAINED ME. IT WEAKENED MY RESOLVE AGAINST THE TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS, AND IT WANTS TO TAKE OVER.

WE NEED TO KEEP MOVING, BUT MY BODY CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER TIMESLIDE. NOT YET.

NATHAN, ARE YOU OKAY? YOU NEVER GET SICK...

I'M FINE.

THIS IS GROSS. I WANNA GO BACK TO JAMES. AND LAURA. AND LOGAN.

I'M SORRY. X-FORCE WERE THE ONES THAT TOLD US TO GO. THEY KNOW YOU'RE SAFER WITH ME.

I DON'T FEEL VERY SAFE.

I WANNA BE WITH OTHER MUTANTS.

I PROMISE, ONE DAY YOU WILL BE. FOR NOW, YOU'RE STUCK WITH YOUR OLD MAN, LIKE IT OR NOT. THAT'S THE END OF IT.

AY
NTRANCE
16
SCOTT
NATHAN?
YES, HOPE?
DOES EVERYONE HAVE SOMEONE WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE THEM?
NO. *STRYFE IS MY CLONE.* AN IDENTICAL COPY OF ME ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT NOTHING LIKE ME ON THE INSIDE.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. IS THERE ONE OUT THERE WHO IS *EXACTLY* LIKE YOU?
NO. BUT MY HALF-BROTHER AND I ARE SIMILAR.
YOU HAVE A BROTHER?!
HIS NAME IS *NATE GREY.* I'M SURE YOU'LL MEET HIM SOME DAY.
DOES HE HAVE POWERS LIKE YOU? DO ALL MUTANTS HAVE POWERS LIKE YOU? WILL I? WHAT WERE THOSE COOL THINGS THAT CAME OUT OF LOGAN'S HANDS?
MUTANTS, LIKE ANY OTHER LIVING CREATURE, ARE ALL UNIQUE WITH DIFFERENT POWERS. THERE'S NO ONE OUT THERE LIKE ME, AND THERE'S NO ONE OUT THERE LIKE YOU.
BUT YOU JUST SAID STRYFE--
QUIET.
HOW LONG 'TIL I GET TO USE MY POWERS?
HOPE, PLEASE STOP. YOU'LL GET ALL THE ANSWERS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IN TIME. RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO LISTEN SO--
I KNOW. I KNOW. SO WE CAN BE AWARE OF OUR SURROUNDINGS.
WE NEED TO GET SOME REST AND FIND FOOD.
OPEN SPACES BREED PARANOIA. ***BISHOP*** CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND. HE'S CONVINCED THAT HIS MISSION TO KILL HOPE IS THE ONLY RECOURSE. HIS MIND'S SLIPPING FURTHER INTO DESPERATION.
LOOK!
IT SHOULD BE NORMAL. HE'S BEEN ON OUR TAIL FOR YEARS. BUT I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT THIS TIME...

...IT'S SOMETHING WORSE.

PEOPLE!

I BET THEY HAVE FOOD!

HOPE, GET BACK HERE!

OI, STRANGERS! APPROACH SLOWLY SO WE CAN SEE THOSE HANDS.

DON'T GET MANY 'ROUND HERE. CAN'T NEVER BE TOO PRUDENT.

HOPE, *STAY BEHIND ME.*

HOLD UP, NOW. IF YA PLAN ON STAYIN' THE NIGHT, YER GONNA HAFTA PLACE THOSE GUNS DOWN ON THE GROUND WHERE WE CAN SEE 'EM.

AND WE'RE GONNA HAFTA SEARCH THE GIRL.

WE WON'T BE STAYING.

WELL, THEN OFF WITH YAS. *GET GOIN'.*

HOLD ON, EDMUND. AT LEAST LET 'EM HAVE A TASTE.

Y'ALL MUST BE HALF-STARVED.

GO ON, DARLIN'.

HOPE, FALL BACK. THAT ISN'T FOR US.

WHY NOT?

REFUSIN' OUR HOSPITALITY? I WARN YA, IT DON'T EXTEND FAR.

DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU. WE'LL BE OFF. NO TROUBLE.

A GIRL LIKE THAT OUGHTA BE WORTH A LOT.

GUESS WE'LL BE TAKING HER, THEN.

%#&*!

ZCHOOM

BANG

KILL 'EM!

GUNS

BANG BANG

TINK

TINK

TINK

AIEEE!!!

GRRR...

SHUNK

HOPE!

WE'RE GONNA MAKE THIS NICE AND SLOW.

AHHH!

EITHER YOU KILL HER NOW...

...OR I SHOOT YOU BOTH.

SHE'S A THREAT TO THE FUTURE.

BISHOP!

WHAT YOU GOT TO TRADE?

YOUR LIFE.

SHOOM

BANG

BANG

NO!

OOMPH.

ZCHOOM

ARGH!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?! STAY AWAY FROM THE GIRL!!!

GET OFFA--

NATHAN... I'M SORRY.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO--

DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS, BISHOP!

KRACK

PLEASE DON'T...

HE'LL KEEP COMING FOR US.

AREN'T WE THE *GOOD GUYS?*

...

GET THE OTHER BOOT.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

IF I CAN'T KILL HIM, I'M GOING TO MAKE IT AS HARD AS POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO *FOLLOW US.*

NATHAN, WHERE ARE WE GOING?

LATER...

NATHAN, I KNOW YOU TOLD ME NOT TO TOUCH THE GUNS, BUT BISHOP WAS GONNA--

IT'S OKAY. YOU DID THE RIGHT THING. IT WAS MY FAULT.

WILL YOU TEACH ME?

I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME WE WENT DOWN THAT ROAD. FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO SHOOT.

WAS THE WORLD LIKE THIS WHEN YOU GREW UP?

DIFFERENT...BUT THE SAME. THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE AROUND, BUT IT WAS JUST AS DANGEROUS. I WAS ALWAYS ON THE RUN WITH MY PARENTS, TOO.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

THAT'S A LONG STORY. FOR ANOTHER TIME.

YOU SAY THAT EVERY TIME YOU DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT SOMETHING.

PACK IT IN. GET SOME REST.

SLYM, MY *FRIEND* DOESN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS CONTROLLING HIS POWERS.

HE CAN BE ANYTHING HE WANTS.

YOU'RE DIFFERENT.

YOU'RE MUCH STRONGER THAN OTHER MUTANTS. YOU HAVE *NOTHING* TO FEEL BAD ABOUT.

READY FOR ANOTHER GO?

NATE, *RELAX.* I CAN SENSE YOUR ANXIETY.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH. FOCUS YOUR TELEKINESIS AND LIFT THAT TREE.

I CAN'T, REDD...THE VIRUS WILL TAKE OVER.

WE'RE RIGHT HERE. DON'T WORRY.

YOU GOT THIS, BUDDY.

I...*CAN'T*... HOLD IT!

HGRH.

URHHHH.

AHHHHHHHH!

DON'T LET IT CONTROL YOU. CLEAR YOUR MIND.

HNN... I'LL NEVER... I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CONTROL IT!

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, WHEN I FIRST GOT MY POWERS...I HURT SOMEONE.

IT HAPPENED BECAUSE I WAS SCARED. BUT MY...DAD SHOWED ME I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE. AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE EITHER.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU, NATE...

"...WE *ALWAYS* WILL BE."

WAKE UP, SLEEPY. IT'S ALREADY OH-EIGHT-HUNDRED.

TIME FOR YOUR LESSON.

YOU SEE THOSE TWO LITTLE TRIANGLES ON THE TOP OF THE BARREL?

YOU WANT YOUR TARGET *RIGHT* BETWEEN THEM.

KEEP YOUR WRIST STRAIGHT. SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF THE GUN WITH YOUR ELBOW.

YOUR EYES NEVER LEAVE THE TARGET.

FIRE WHEN READY.

MOAF

BFI'S

SHOOM CLANG

MORF

I GOT IT! DID YOU SEE THAT?

I SAW. THAT PEASHOOTER BELONGS TO YOU NOW.

BUT YOU FOLLOW MY RULES. KEEP IT HOLSTERED, AND YOU ONLY EVER SHOOT IT WHEN I *TELL YOU.* IS THAT CLEAR?

CRYSTAL.

IS *NOW* THE TIME?

FOR WHAT?

TO TELL ME WHERE YOUR PARENTS ARE.

YOU NEVER LET UP, DO YOU?

MY MOM WAS EVERYTHING I COULD HAVE ASKED FOR. NURTURING. PATIENT. IT HELPED THAT SHE WAS A VERY POWERFUL TELEPATH.

WILL I EVER MEET HER?

I WISH YOU COULD...SHE PASSED AWAY. YOU TWO WOULD'VE GOTTEN ALONG.

NO FISHING

I'M SORRY, NATHAN.

MY DAD IS THE LEADER OF THE X-MEN--

YOU MEAN MY GRANDDAD IS IN CHARGE OF LOGAN, JAMES AND LAURA? WHOA!

YES. HE'S THE ONE WHO SENT THEM TO SAVE US.

HE'S ALSO THE ONE THAT ASKED ME TO PROTECT YOU.

SO HE KNOWS ABOUT ME? DOES THIS MEAN I CAN BE AN X-PERSON ONE DAY?

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT. BUT UNTIL YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE THAT DECISION, I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE.

NATHAN, LOOK! WE SHOULD SEARCH FOR SUPPLIES.

GOOD EYE. YOU READ MY MIND.

I DID? ARE THOSE MY POWERS?!

NO, NO. IT'S JUST A THING PEOPLE SAY.

I'M GONNA CHECK OVER HERE.

STAY WITHIN EARSHOT.

COPY THAT.

HUH?

HGGH!

LOGAN?

HOPE...

CALL HIM.

NATHAN! I FOUND LOGAN...

SNIKT

SNIKT

ZCHOOM

GET AWAY FROM HER!

NO, NO, NO. YOU'VE BEEN WITH HER TOO LONG.

YOU MUST BE ALONE!

CAN I SHOOT?

NO! STAY BACK!

BLAM

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?

FIND COVER!

ZCHOOM

HOPE, *RUN!*

NO, LET HER PLAY!

BIG, STRONG SOLDIER...

...STILL CAN'T CONTROL HIS VIRUS.

BLAM

SHOOM

YOU THINK YOU'RE WHY CABLE'S RUNNING AWAY, BISHOP?

IT'S ME. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN RUNNING FROM ME.

WHO ARE YOU?

BISHOP, DON'T--

I AM THE *SHADOWS.*

I AM EVERYTHING AND NOTHING.

SHOOT, HOPE!

BUT YOU SAID WE'RE THE GOOD--

DON'T WORRY, LITTLE GIRL.

I WON'T KILL YOU. *TAKING YOU* AWAY IS MUCH MORE PAINFUL.

BZZZRK

I WON'T GIVE YOU THE SATISFACTION!

STAY DOWN.

YOU'RE STRONG. LIKE HIM.

ARRRGGH!

YOUR ARM. THE WIRES AND CIRCUITS...

THEY BELONG TO ME.

COME ON...

LET... GO OF MY... ARM!

BZZZRK

CORMAX

I HAVE YOU.

NAAAAATHAN!

SHHH. IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY.

BA-DOOM

I WAS SO SCARED!

YOU SAID I'D BE SAFER WITH YOU BUT *I'M NOT!* WE'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE. LIKE *X-FORCE.* WE NEED--

YOU DON'T NEED THEM. I'LL *NEVER* LET ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

NOT SURE IF MY BODY IS READY TO TIMESLIDE, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE. I HAVE TO RISK IT.

YOU SHOULDA LEFT ME WITH THEM!

THAT MONSTER TOLD ME IT WAS GOING TO TAKE ME AWAY.

I'M DOING MY BEST...

I KNOW YOU'RE MAD, BUT WE NEED TO KEEP MOVING.

SHE'S SEEN THE FACE OF MY FEAR. SHE KNOWS I'M NOT INVINCIBLE NOW. EVERY CHILD REALIZES THAT EVENTUALLY.

THAT THEIR PARENTS AREN'T PERFECT. THAT THEY MAKE MISTAKES. THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS THEY CAN'T CONFRONT.

THIS HAS GONE ON TOO LONG. IT'S HURT TOO MANY PEOPLE AND I WON'T LET METUS DO IT AGAIN.

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FACE IT FOR MYSELF BUT...

...I HAVE TO END THIS FOR HER.

TO BE CONTINUED!

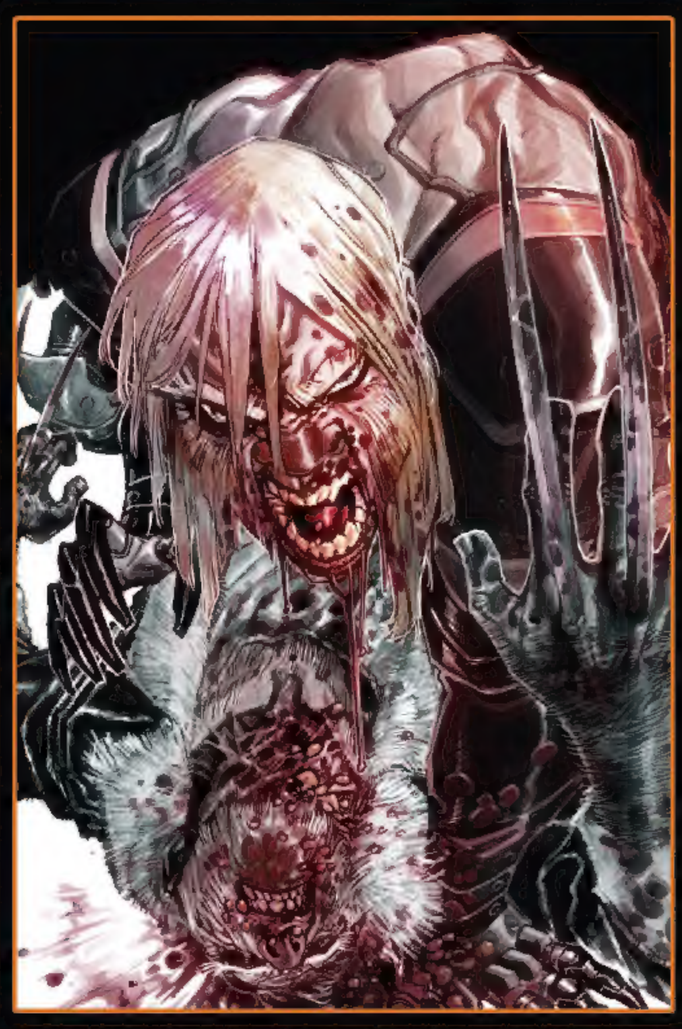
CABLE

NEXT MONTH...

CABLE #157
OUTGUNNED WITH X-MAN!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
OFFICEX@MARVEL.COM

WEAPON X #16
ON SALE NOW



X-MEN BLUE #26
NEXT WEEK

WEAPON X #17
IN TWO WEEKS

ZONE